2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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normally time is required to assess the value of such evidence before action can be taken to deal with the situation. To rely solely on Agents and Post Commanders for information would result in many false alarms with consequent waste of time and would fatigue unnecessarily the military forces charged with the task of frontier control.

The ideal is a combination of air and land, and that is precisely how watch along the Aden frontier is maintained. The frontier Posts are sited in strategic positions and are provided with W.T. sets, but owing to the nature of the ground they are often many miles apart, especially on the Aden-Saudi frontier where their number is strictly conditioned by their accessibility to adequate supplies of water. Information comes in from the Posts either from the Political Officer for the area who may be there at the time, or from the local Commander of the Post, and it is checked forthwith by a reconnaissance flight by the Royal Air Force when it relates to troop movements or tribal concentration. It is often only a matter of an hour or so from the time that the information is received to the time that the pilot's report confirming or disproving the information is available. In times of particular tension reporting from Posts is supplemented by frontier patrols, by aircraft flying along the Aden side of the frontier. These patrols have proved to be particularly effective over the sandy and stony desert across which runs the Aden-Saudi Arabian frontier; camels and vehicles can be hidden in Wadis and can travel at night, but neither camels nor vehicles can pass over open country, especially sandy country, without leaving tracks for the airmen to see in the morning.

Speedy and accurate information from the desert areas and from the mountainous regions would be impossible without the use of aircraft. In both types of country the air-land form of frontier control and reconnaissance has been proved to be not only the most efficient, but also by far the most economical both in men and machines, and in money also. It is not inhuman and is not unsporting. True, the Yemen, in my time, had no Air Force and Saudi Arabia nothing much in that line, but the object is to prevent frontier violation not only by our

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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neighbours, but also by our own people, in which we are doing our neighbours a service.

Much has been said and written in the Press about frontier violation by reconnaissance aircraft operating from Aden. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred such reports are without foundation. It is impossible for any but the most skilled trained observer on the ground to predict precisely, without the aid of precision instruments, where an aircraft is flying in relation to the ground, especially if it is at any height. Errors do occur from time to time, but they are few and far between and are generally errors of navigation committed by navigators inexperienced in the conditions prevailing in the Aden Protectorate.

The next essential, after information of an incursion has been received and confirmed, is action. The intruder must be evicted —that is an immediate necessity. If you catch a stranger in your house in the middle of the night packing up the spoons, you try to arrest him and to kick him out. You are quite entitled to do so. If he seems to be too much for you to tackle alone you call the Police and they take on the task. If the intruder shows fight and a disinclination to leave, the Police use "reasonable force" and take the fellow away. He may get hurt in the process; that's just too bad. No one writes to the papers and asks questions in the House of Commons, but transfer the scene to a Colony, multiply the intruder by one hundred, substitute a desire to burn and pillage for a liking for other people's spoons and an aeroplane for the police, and there are long articles in the Press and shoals of questions asked in the House of Commons.

Many people feel quite genuinely unhappy about the use of aircraft against ground forces, which is understandable, but springs from ignorance of the way in which aircraft are used. War and fighting with lethal weapons of the modern sort is beastly and horrible to a degree, and the longer it goes on, the more are the casualties and the more horrible it becomes. Therefore, surely the most humane thing to do is to stop the fighting as soon as possible with the fewest possible casualties, especially among our own troops, or to prevent it altogether.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

Criticism of the Information Department, which had been persistent but mild while the cost fell on His Majesty's Government, was intensified when, in accordance with imperial policy, the cost of Colony services was transferred to Colony funds, and an investigation into the activities of the Department was made by a special committee during 1948. In accordance with their recommendation the Governor set up an Advisory Committee for the Department on which unofficial opinion was well represented, and the Department was allowed to continue for a further year. The policy for the future is still under consideration. But in the meantime, such steps as were possible were taken to reduce unprofitable activities and concentrate available resources on approved services. The local newspaper run by Government was discontinued, though the question of giving assistance to some newspaper is still under consideration. The reading rooms in the Colony were closed.

On the other hand, provision for mobile cinemas was increased from one to three. A public address system was installed throughout the Fortress, is being extended to Sheikh Othman, and was used for daily announcements of public interest.

Plans are under consideration for a regular broadcasting service, to serve both the Colony and the Protectorate, and if this comes into operation, the Arabic news will also be put over the public loudspeaker.

The Information Officer inaugurated a series of weekly pamphlets giving information, in English and Arabic, regarding Government intentions and achievements, and explanations in simple language of laws and regulations which were brought into force.

The routine activities of the Information Department, including the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers are published in the Colony:

Reuters Bulletin (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden, P. & O. House, Steamer Point, Aden.

Fatat-el-Jazirah (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali Luqman, Crater, Aden.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

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and nine pilots. Mercantile marine matters are dealt with by the Port 502
Officer. The present incumbent is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

The Port has continued to thrive throughout the period and there 504
has been a further increase in the number and tonnage of ships using the harbour. There has been an increase in the number of ships calling for the purpose of bunkering and a consequent increase in the business done by the oil supplying companies. Coal bunkering has shown the falling off noticeable in previous years.

The Aden Port Trust publishes an annual report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION OFFICE

The Public Relations and Information Office continued under the 647
part-time supervision of the District Commissioner with an Advisory 208
Committee representing local opinion. In accordance with their recommendations the main activity has been the showing of news and documentary films, in English and Arabic, at clubs and in public open spaces.

A regular series of Bulletins, in English and Arabic and occasionally 204
Gujerati, was published on departmental activities and matters of local interest, and these are now issued from time to time on special topics. Regular news sheets were issued in 1949 and early in 1950, but these have now been replaced by occasional press conferences with Heads of Departments as the local Arab press is increasing in circulation and experience and becoming more qualified to give publicity to Government intentions and achievements.

There is no local broadcasting system, news and entertainment being 207
offered direct by the B.B.C. Arabic Service and the broadcasting stations of Cairo, Delhi, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab countries. A public address system, with loud-speakers in open spaces in the main 203 ●
centres of population, is used for announcements of importance.

Public reading rooms in the Colony, which had been set up by the 217
Ministry of Information during the war, were closed as a measure of economy in 1948, but three were maintained in the Protectorate.

The routine activities of the Office which includes the supply of news 208
reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institu- 647
tions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number 804
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